DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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December 13, 1950

MEMORANDUM

To: Staff Members

Subj: Latin American Policy Statement

The attached supplement and the November 9 draft on "Development of U.S. Latin American Policy in Terms of U.S. World Objectives, 1950-1955" (already distributed) will be up for discussion at an S/P meeting at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, December 14. Ed Miller and Lou Halle will be on hand to talk on these papers.

Philip H. Watts

Attachment:

Supplement to 11/9/50 Draft "Development of U.S. Latin American Policy in Terms of U.S. World Objectives, 1950-1955"

S/P:PHWatts:sg

SECRET

December 1, 1950

MEMORANDUM

To: S/P - Mr. Watts
Mr. Butler

From: ARA - Mr. Halle

Subject: Latin American Policy Statement

POLICY PLANNING STAFF
DEC 12 1950
Department of State

In anticipation of the meeting S/P plans to call for the consideration of the draft of November 9 on "Development of US Latin American Policy in Terms of US World Objectives, 1950-1955", I attach a draft on proposed Latin American policy with respect to the Organization of American States. This repairs an omission that contributes to the incompleteness of the November 9 draft. Its contents, as they may be modified, might well be included in the contemplated revision of the November 9 draft.

You may wish to circulate this as a supplement to the November 9 paper so that its contents may also be considered at the projected meeting.

LJH

Louis J. Halle, Jr.

Attachment

If you think it would confuse matters to distribute this now I would prefer to hold it back for a later stage when we would of course be dealing with your [illegible]

ARA:LJH:om

SECRET

1) In the context of the present world situation the importance of the Organization of American States to this country is that it provides us with a reserve security system through which the human and economic resources of the Western Hemisphere could be mobilized in the event the United Nations is rendered ineffectual. While we are exerting every effort to ensure the triumph of the concept of the United Nations, we cannot at this stage afford to rely exclusively upon it. The possibility still exists that we might find ourselves reduced to a defense of the Western Hemisphere. In that case the OAS would provide the major international basis for defense arrangements.

2) If this reserve system is to serve its purpose it must be maintained in a condition of vitality. The main organs and procedures of the OAS must be kept [alive] effective through use in order that they may be effectively relied upon in time of special need.

3) In addition to this major purpose of the OAS in American foreign policy, there are other purposes of considerable though less importance. So long as the maintenance of peace among the Latin American countries is desired, the OAS will fill an important function. It has been demonstrated that the Latin American countries are far more ready to settle inter-American disputes through inter-American procedures than they are to take them to the United Nations, and there is reason to believe that inter-American procedures are more efficient and effective for that purpose. Moreover, so long as the United States continues to desire an expanding trade with

America in world affairs, it will find in the OAS a valuable symbol and mechanism for encouraging closer unity among the American republics in all the major areas of national interest.

4) To the Latin Americans a major significance of the Organization of American States is its capacity to pool the efforts and resources of Latin America and the United States in the solution of economic, social and cultural problems. Latin Americans are prone to consider that the United States is primarily interested in security features of the OAS while they attach as much if not greater importance to the economic, social and cultural features. It is therefore essential to recognize that if we are to attain our objective of maintaining a living Inter-American System, it is, because of the Latin American interests, necessary to participate constructively not only in security arrangements but also in programs of economic, social and cultural cooperation. If we deny or obstruct the Latin American interest in these latter phases of inter-American cooperation, to that extent will we weaken the security structure in which we are primarily interested.

5) The objective of the United States with respect to the OAS may therefore be stated as follows: It should be maintained as a vital and effective international organization having a high significance to the security of the United States. The security arrangements of the OAS should be scrupulously enforced and supported even in small controversies because of their significance to possible large ones. Its economic, social and cultural programs should be supported at least to the extent that is necessary to retain

countries to the regional arrangements of a whole.

6) Pursuing this objective will cost the United States some money. It will even risk the cost of some duplication with activities being undertaken by the United Nations and its related agencies, particularly in the fields of the specialized organizations. A consistent effort must be made to promote efficient working relationships between the regional and United Nations systems wherever possible. Arrangements should be worked out whereby the regional organizations can be linked to the world-wide organizations in order to avoid the establishment of duplicating organizations. Moreover, the regional organizations should be used wherever possible to support the principles and effective operation of the United Nations. However, the process of grafting the regional system on to the United Nations must never go so far as to result in a loss of identity on the part of the regional organizations individually or as a group. In view of the major function of the regional system in US foreign policy, the inter-American organizations must retain sufficient identity and independence to enable them at any time, without major change, to exercise their functions effectively as self-supporting international agencies should the United Nations system be rendered ineffective.